

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, May 10, 1999

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 10, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Open our eyes, O God, to see the opportunities of this new day; open our ears, O God, to hear the voices of those who call for help; open our minds, O God, to the way of truth and justice; open our hearts, O God, so Your grace will forgive us and lead us forward, and open our hands, O God, to do the work of peace on Earth and good will to all Your people. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NEVADA'S PURSUIT TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR KIDS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today the President assembled the second na-

tional summit on school violence in an effort to prevent further tragedies from occurring on our school grounds.

Today I would like to praise Nevadans in their efforts to see that our schools remain safe for our children. Numerous meetings and public forums involving community leaders, parents, and teachers have taken place and have been televised during prime time hours throughout the State of Nevada.

Just last Friday, a Nevada volunteer program called "Parent Patrol" celebrated its third anniversary by honoring those parents who volunteer their time to monitor activities in and around Nevada school yards.

Our Nevada State Legislature is also establishing a special commission to investigate the causes of school violence and how Nevada may be able to provide the necessary resources to detect threats before they are carried out.

Like every other State, Nevada is not immune to the threat of school violence. But where there is a committed pursuit for answers and actions, we are bound to make progress.

Many questions, though, remain to be answered by the ills of our society; but as our kids are taught in school, there are no stupid questions. In this case, the answers may save lives.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, May 2 through 9 is the National Parent Teacher Association's 14th annual "Teacher Appreciation Week."

A week to celebrate the selfless dedication of our nation's teachers and educators who work every day to help our students gain the skills they need to prepare for the future.

Today, our nation's teachers accept many challenges in the classroom.

George F. Will once cited two surveys of the top discipline problems in public schools to emphasize the tremendous change in our nation's schools over time.

Those top problems listed on survey from the 1940s included students chewing gum, making noise, getting out of turn in line, and not putting paper in the wastebaskets.

The 1980s survey lists the top problems as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault.

Mr. Speaker, as the role of our teachers continue to evolve, the importance of having quality educators in the classroom is absolutely critical.

Today, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to recognize three very special educators from the Third District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent.

While I only have time this evening to mention three, I must emphasize that this week is a tribute to all teachers.

Not just in Eastern North Carolina, but teachers across the country who selflessly dedicate their time and energy to help our children challenge themselves and achieve their educational goals.

Audra Singleton is one particular teacher who uses a unique and successful mixture of discipline and encouragement to motivate her students to learn.

Mrs. Singleton is an eight-grade language arts teacher at Wellcome Middle School in Greenville, North Carolina.

A veteran of the Gulf War, Mrs. Singleton was nominated by her students to receive the Channel One Network's Teacher of the Year.

Channel One produces educational programs for middle and high school aged students.

About 12,000 schools nationwide, including Wellcome, subscribe to Channel One as an educational resource.

In an effort to recognize the efforts of our nation's teachers, Channel One asked students to videotape their teachers in the classroom.

Mrs. Singleton, with the faithful support and encouragement of her students, was selected Channel One's Teacher of the Year.

Ralph Cole is another educator who deserves recognition today.

Mr. Cole has been educating the children of Chowan County, North Carolina for the last thirty-seven years.

Now principal of D.F. Walker Elementary School in Edenton, Mr. Cole has dedicated his career to ensure that all students have equal access to a quality education.

While Mr. Cole is retiring at the end of this school year, I wanted to acknowledge him during Teacher Appreciation Week for his efforts to inspire all children to learn and to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, each year the state of North Carolina selects a teacher to serve as ambassador for public schools and the teaching profession.

The teacher then goes on to compete for the honor of National Teacher of the Year.

Rebecca Hoyle, a veteran of North Carolina public schools for 26 years, has been named North Carolina's 1998-1999 teacher of the year.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.